

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH MAURICE MATCHETT, JR.—A GREAT AMERICAN AND FRIEND

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that we pause for a moment in honor of one of the finest people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Dr. Kenneth Matchett, Jr. was a dedicated family man, a hard working physician and a model American. He gave selflessly to provide for his family and to help his community. Tragically, Ken died in a horse riding accident while competing in Phoenix, Arizona.

After graduating from Stanford with a degree in Biochemistry in 1963, he attended Cornell Medical College. There he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honorary society. It was not long until he realized his true passion, Internal Medicine. During 1967–1972, he completed his residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Duke University. Soon after that he returned to his hometown of Grand Junction, Colorado, where he set up his own practice.

In addition to working tirelessly in his practice, he also maintained an active role in Saint Mary's Hospital. There Ken served as President of the Medical Staff and as a member of the Board of Directors. As if these accolades are not enough, he also went on to found the Oncology Unit for the care of cancer patients at Saint Mary's Hospital. The fine Doctor had a special reassuring warmth with his patients.

Ken is survived by his wife Sally, their three daughters, Nancy Jean, Sarah Mary and Emily Ruth, three sons-in-law and two grandchildren. His family was precious to him.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I pay tribute to the life of Ken Matchett. I wish that everyone could have had the pleasure of knowing this man. He was a great American and a friend of many.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SURESH KWATRA

### HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, before the first session of the 106th Congress adjourns, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Suresh Kwatra, a dedicated 25-year career employee of the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, who died unexpectedly on June 21, 1999.

Mr. Kwatra was indeed an inspiring individual. He was an accounting graduate of Delhi University. He immigrated to the United States from his native India in 1969 and served in the United States Army during the Vietnam conflict, shortly after gaining his American citizenship.

Mr. Kwatra began his career with the former Veterans Administration in 1974. He served as a veterans benefits counselor, strategic planner with VA's national cemetery system, and statistician and analyst in the Office of VA's Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning. Because of his exceptional initiative and pro-

fessionalism, the Congressional Veterans' Claims and Adjudication Commission selected Mr. Kwatra to be an analyst and project manager. In my role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have read his insightful analysis in the commission's report.

Mr. Speaker, Suresh Kwatra came to America, served proudly and honorably in our military, and then committed his life to serving fellow veterans for a quarter of a century. To Suresh's former co-workers, members of his church and community, his wife of 25 years Shoba, and sons Sameer and Naveen, I say that Suresh Kwatra was more than an inspiring individual, indeed he was an American hero.

### HISTORIC ENCOUNTER BETWEEN SAN JUAN PUEBLO AND SPAIN

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on October 31, 1999, the headline of the Sunday Journal North edition of the Albuquerque Journal read: "Pueblos, Spain Forging Ties." That headline and the accompanying article recognized ground-breaking events whose importance extends beyond the Third Congressional District of New Mexico. Events that are living proof that centuries-old wounds to the dignity of our Native American communities, particularly our New Mexico Indian Pueblos, can be healed through good will on the parts of the leaders of those Pueblos and the government involved. In this case, that government is the government of Spain.

Students of American history know that four and a half centuries ago our American Southwest was explored by the government of Spain, which eventually led to Spanish settlement there four centuries ago. Those 1598 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Oñate did not find themselves alone: they settled in the midst of Indian Pueblos that had been thriving, vital established communities since time immemorial.

The relationship between the Spanish settlers and the original Pueblo Indian inhabitants were filled with conflict and occasional violence. Through it all, the Pueblo Indian communities, including the Pueblo of San Juan where Juan de Oñate established the first Spanish capitol of New Mexico, struggled endured and held on to their culture, their traditions and even their internal government.

On April 3, 1998, acting on behalf of the 19 Indian Pueblos that comprise the All Indian Pueblo Council of New Mexico, San Juan Pueblo Governor Earl N. Salazar became the first tribal official in the history of New Mexico and the United States to invite an official representative of the Government of Spain, its Vice President Francisco Alvarez-Cascos, to visit San Juan Pueblo in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the permanent meeting of the two cultures. That invitation was made because in the view of the San Juan Tribal Council after four hundred years, reconciliation and healing were important. In the words of one San Juan Pueblo spiritual leader, "It was not right to teach our children to hate." What an incredible and brave statement that was!

As a result of Governor Salazar's invitation, on April 26, 1998, the Governors of New Mexico's 19 Pueblos, led by this remarkable young man, Governor Salazar, met with Vice President Alvarez-Cascos and Antonio Oyarzabal, Spanish Ambassador to the United States. The meeting was also attended by many of New Mexico's state and local government dignitaries. At that meeting, Governor Salazar reflected: "Today is a historical day for all of us because for the first time since that contact at Oke Oweingeh four hundred years ago, we, the descendants of our respective peoples and nations, are meeting to reflect upon the past and present, and together chart a new course of the relationship of our children and their future." Speaking for the Spanish delegation, Vice President Alvarez-Cascos stated "It is in the future history, the one we need and want to write together, that we will find reconciliation, fruit of a new will for two cultures who have learned to overcome the pain and suffering of the past, two people who want to know each other better, who want to build a new friendship."

Subsequently, Governor Salazar, his wife Rebecca, Governor Gary Johnson of New Mexico and First Lady Dee Johnson were extended an official invitation to visit Spain. The objective of the visit was to build on the foundation established during the April 26, 1998 meeting hosted by Governor Salazar and the nineteen New Mexican Indian Pueblos. The official visit to Spain, which became known as "Re-encuentro de Tres Culturas" or the "Re-encounter of Three Cultures"—referring to the Indian, Spanish and American cultures—took place on November 18 through 23, 1998. The United States Ambassador to Spain, Ed Romero, a descendant of those first Spanish colonists in New Mexico, also took part in the meetings and events. At the official reception, Governor Salazar, whose mother Maria Ana Salazar is full blooded San Juan Tewa Indian and whose father is State Representative Nick L. Salazar, a Hispanic elected official in New Mexico, delivered a blessing in Tewa. The essence of that blessing was "Now it is time for all of us to sit down and establish a framework for how we will work with each other to establish an enduring relationship based on honor, trust, mutual respect, love and compassion."

During the Re-encuentro de Tres Culturas, the Prince of the Asturias, His Royal Majesty, Felipe Bourbon, made a special visit to meet Governor Salazar, Governor Johnson and the rest of the New Mexico delegation which included State Representative Nick L. Salazar, Española Mayor Richard Lucero and Rio Arriba County Commissioner Alfredo Montoya. The King, along with other high-ranking Spanish Officials, witnessed the performance of the Sacred Buffalo Dance performed by Pueblo Indian members of the delegation from New Mexico. In appreciation for his courageous leadership, His Majesty presented Governor Salazar with a medal making him a member of the Order of Isabel De la Catolica, grade of encomienda. The medal is awarded to individuals whose "Pure Loyalty" by deeds and actions have helped to foster better relations between Spain and America. Governor Salazar is the first Indian Governor upon who this honor has bestowed.

As noted in the October 31, 1999 Albuquerque Journal article, the courage of Governor Salazar and the rest of the New Mexico's Pueblo Indian leaders is beginning to